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## WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

The Gable End of the Opera

House Cashes Through

Arion Hall.

In Less Than An Hour a Scho

Would Have Been Assembled

in the Place.

There was a thundering crash at five minutes past eight o'clock this morning, which was heard for a wide radius from the burned Opera House like the muffled roar of a heavy rock blast. No shores had been placed against the bare walls of the building, and the gable end of the structure, having only one door and one window to afford a vent, gave an immense surface for the high wind that was blowing—a regular stiff trade breeze. Besides, the gable peak surmounting the wall gave a great leverage to aid the pressure. Chief Engineer Hunt had reported the end wall to be cracked after the fire, yet no precaution was taken by the authorities to prevent an accident.

So down went the wall. The base line of the fracture extended laterally for nearly the whole breadth of the building, being twelve or fourteen feet from the ground and sloping up several feet from the corner of the door frame at one end of the wall and the window frame near the other.

Beneath the morning shadow of the Opera House stands Arion hall, a one-story wooden structure with an iron roof. Through the end of this hall the falling wall crashed, cutting off about ten feet of it clean and clear. Roof, ceiling and floor went down under the terrible impact of brick. A lot of chairs, tables, etc., were involved in the wreck. The ceiling is shattered for some distance from the inner line of contact. Double glass doors on the rear side of the hall were broken and wrenched from their hinges apparently by the force of the compressed air, for no brick lay near them nor did they bear marks of being struck by anything sharp or solid. One tree in the way was stripped of limbs and foliage as bare as a telephone pole, another had just a row of limbs on one side, making it look like a dust brush, while a stout palm was broken off low.

Miss Corney has been holding a private school for some months in Arion hall, her pupils being young children. The school desks are placed at the middle of the hall, yet, if school had been in when the accident happened, the teacher and pupils would at least have suffered severely from the shock. What is more dreadful to imagine, however, is what would have happened if the wall had fallen when the children were assembling. They have been in the habit of playing all over the ground about the Gibson premises and the Opera House.

George Manson, who lodges in Dr. McLennan's house, on the side next the Opera House, was probably the nearest person to the scene at the time. He was between his bedroom and bathroom, and knew at once what the resounding crash meant, as he noticed the wall trembling yesterday afternoon. Mr. Manson did not find the telephone working well, but managed to notify No. 1 fire station and the police station. A guard was placed at the front of the Opera House, and one on Mililani street to keep people away from possible danger.

Police Officer Green, who lives in the house next to the Arion hall, on the lot at Queen and Mililani streets, was startled from his breakfast by

the noise. As he reached the back of his house he was blinded with a cloud of powdered mortar which gave him sore eyes for one day.

All over town the fall of the wall was a leading topic in the forenoon, and there was much discussion as to where the responsibility for the accident rested. Some said the firemen should have pulled down the wall when the fire had been put out. Others thought the building came into the possession of the insurance companies until the loss was adjusted. Still another opinion was that the Government was responsible over all parties, and that it was the duty of the Superintendent of Public Works to have the walls either pulled down or shored up.

This accident recalls another that happened to St. Louis schoolhouse a good many years ago. The building was being decorated for a grand firemen's ball, when, within a few hours of the opening of the ball, the building collapsed. One man was killed and two men were injured. It was regarded as highly fortunate that the disaster occurred before the company had assembled, as otherwise the calamity would have been frightful to contemplate. Weakness of construction was the cause of the collapse.

### PRISONERS LET OUT.

Four More Foreigners Who Have to Leave the Country.

Yesterday afternoon Fred. Harrison, contractor, F. H. Redward, contractor, John Radin, hack owner, John C. White, iron founder, all foreigners, and John Defries, a half-white who has been a boss on the wharves, were released from Oahu Prison, where they had been confined under charges of connection with the rebellion. The foreigners are all required to leave the country as a condition of their release. As in the other cases of exile, they may not return until they receive permission so to do from the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Those of the prisoners seen bore up cheerfully, but were reticent in conversation. "How is it?" a friend asked Fred. Harrison. "Got to skip," was the laconic reply. F. H. Redward said he had not been afraid to stand his trial, but he did not want to stay in jail another six weeks. He is looking very well.

John Inch and George Kipa, natives, have been discharged from custody.

### FELL TWENTY-SEVEN FEET.

Accident to a Workman on the Marine Railway.

While a native workman named Joe Kawi was operating a winch on top of the marine railway cradle this forenoon, he lost his balance and fell to the platform twenty-seven feet below. He landed on his heels or else he would probably be a dead man. As it is, he was severely shocked in the spinal column by the fall. Dr. Herbert, who was called to his aid, says he will recover if inflammation do not supervene, and directions for his care be faithfully observed by his friends. Before he fell the wind had been blowing hard and he leaned over to brace himself against it, when suddenly there came a lull and Kawi fell the way he was leaning. Kawi was formerly employed in the Government building.

### COLLISION ON THE STREET.

Painful Accident to William Ross This Morning.

An unfortunate accident happened to William Ross, clerk in the wharf office of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, at eight o'clock this morning. He was riding a bicycle and turning the corner sharply at the Y. M. C. A. ran into a cart. The collision threw him from the wheel, his head striking the curb stone. Mr. Ross was assisted into Dr. Cooper's office, where he was found to have three scalp wounds that required stitching. He also sustained a considerable shock from the fall. His bicycle was badly damaged.

### Miniature Art.

At Williams' Studio are to be seen Portraits on Watch Dials, which he is making a specialty of. Lantern Slides for lecture by the set or dozen.

## HAWAIIANS FOR ANNEXATION.

Meeting of the Native League Will Not Exact the Oath

Twenty-one members of the Hawaiian Annexation League assembled at the third preliminary meeting last night. It was held at the rooms of the American League, kindly placed at the disposal of the native body. John F. Colburn, ex-Minister of the Interior, temporary chairman, and Charles L. Hopkins, ex-Marshal, temporary secretary, officiated respectively in those capacities. Samuel Parker, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs, was present. He is likely to be the choice of the League for its president.

Mr. Colburn reported an interview had with F. M. Hatch, Minister of Foreign Affairs, by Messrs. Parker and Hopkins and himself. They discussed with that gentleman the propriety and expediency of making the oath of fidelity to the Constitution a necessary qualification for membership. The other members of committee were in favor of exacting the oath, on the ground partly that more consideration would be given petitions from the League if the signers were sworn supporters of the Republic. Mr. Colburn on the other hand expressed the opinion to Mr. Hatch that the oath would handicap the movement, as many of the natives felt sore against the Government and would feel more so after punishment was meted out to their rebel countrymen. What the League wanted was annexation on a certain basis or not at all, and it would seek to enlist the native sentiment irrespective of their feelings toward the present Government of the Republic.

Mr. Hatch accepted the views of Mr. Colburn as sound. The Legislature was the body to receive petitions, and would pay equal attention to those from persons who had not taken the oath and persons who had done so.

The meeting decided not to make the taking of the oath a qualification. Only persons of Hawaiian blood or married to Hawaiian women are eligible to membership.

There will probably be another meeting of the League to-morrow or Saturday evening, when the constitution will be taken up for final revision and adoption.

### Chinese Firemen Made Unhappy.

China Engine Company met last night to consider a letter from Chief Engineer Hunt, approved by Fire Commissioners Andrew Brown and George W. Smith, notifying the company that the agreement the Government made with it in 1893 would be null and void after April 1. The officers and trustees of the company were appointed a committee to take the position of the company into consideration. The agreement in question allowed China company to maintain its existence as a volunteer body, the only company left in existence of all the volunteer fire department replaced in 1893 by the paid department.

### Japanese Assault Case

Hoshina and Arai, Japanese, were arrested last night for assault on Mori, a fellow-countryman. They went to his house to collect a Japanese newspaper bill, and in an ensuing row threw him through a window, his face and hands being cut by the glass. Hoshina, who is a Custom House employee, was released on \$500 bail, but his comrade did not have the money to put up.

### A Recommendation From Los Angeles.

632 Castelar St., LOS ANGELES, Cal. —After having suffered for a long time from acute rheumatism without obtaining relief, I used Chamberlain's Pain Balm and was almost immediately relieved. I highly recommend this as the best medicine known. D. M. HAMILTON. For sale by Benson, Smith & Co., Agents for the Hawaiian Islands.

### Sheriff of Hawaii.

Sheriff Williams of Hawaii is in town, having brought the Malay who killed a Japanese. His presence was also desired that he might explain his arrest of F. M. Wakefield, barrister, for treason when that gentleman was not even suspected of disloyalty. The Sheriff says he only obeyed orders in making the arrest.